

O'Connell, Sue

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From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2010 4:32 PM
To: O'Connell, Sue
Subject: Comments from Judge Larson

Below are comments from Judge John Larson, 4th Judicial District (Missoula and Mineral Counties) regarding the DD commitment laws bill draft:

I believe that the initial hearing is an unnecessary logistical burden. It apparently would apply to recommitments. Most of those are located in Boulder where we have a clerk of court and a county attorney, but no resident judge or public defender. Hooking everybody up for a 45-second TV appearance is not going to assist the case processing or protect rights. It will take a lot of time from the staff to coordinate.

I also disagree strongly with the automatic dismissal language (Section 7(4)). Each party in a civil case should have 5-10 days to request a hearing if they disagree with the residential screening committee - there are close cases.

Lois Menzies, Court Administrator
Montana Supreme Court, Office of Court Administrator
301 South Park Avenue, Room 328
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
(406) 841-2957
lmenzies@mt.gov